

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 59

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States remains committed to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas for 50 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (hereafter in this preamble referred to as “NATO”) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the territories of its member states against all external threats;

Whereas NATO, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty, and the rule of law, has proved an indispensable instrument for forging a trans-Atlantic community of nations working together to safeguard the freedom and common heritage of its peoples, and promoting stability in the North Atlantic area;

Whereas NATO has acted to address new risks emerging from outside the treaty area in the interests of preserving peace and security in the Euro-Atlantic area, and maintains a unique collective capability to address these new challenges which may affect Allied interests and values;

Whereas such challenges to NATO Allied interests and values include the potential for the re-emergence of a hegemonic power confronting Europe; rogue states and non-state actors possessing nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons and their means of delivery; transnational terrorism and disruption of the flow of vital resources; and conflicts outside the treaty area stemming from unresolved historical disputes and the actions of undemocratic governments and sub-state actors who reject the peaceful settlement of disputes;

Whereas the security of NATO member states is inseparably linked to that of the whole of Europe, and the consolidation and strengthening of democratic and free societies on the entire continent, in accordance with the principles and commitments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, is of direct and material concern to the NATO Alliance and its partners;

Whereas the 50th anniversary NATO summit meeting, to be held on April 24–25, 1999, in Washington, D.C., offers the historic opportunity to chart a course for NATO in the next millenium;

Whereas NATO enhances the security of the United States by providing an integrated military structure and a framework for consultations on political and security concerns of any member state;

Whereas NATO remains the embodiment of United States engagement in Europe and therefore membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States;

Whereas NATO should become the core security organization of a future Euro-Atlantic architecture in which all states enjoy the same freedom, cooperation, and security;

Whereas NATO has embarked upon a historic mission to share its benefits and patterns of consultation and cooperation with other nations in the Euro-Atlantic area through both enlargement and active partnership;

Whereas the impending membership of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland will strengthen NATO's ability to perform the full range of NATO missions and bolster its capability to integrate former communist adversary nations into a community of democracies;

Whereas the organization of NATO national parliamentarians, the North Atlantic Assembly (NAA), serves as a unique transatlantic forum for generating and maintaining legislative and public support for the Alliance, and has played a key role in initiating constructive dialogue between NATO parliamentarians and parliamentarians in Central and Eastern Europe; and

Whereas NAA activities, such as the Rose-Roth program to engage and educate Central and Eastern European parliamentarians, have played a pioneering role in familiarizing the new democracies with democratic institutions and a civil society: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
- 2 resentatives that—

1 (1) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
2 (hereafter in this resolution referred to as “NATO”)
3 is to be commended for its pivotal role in preserving
4 trans-Atlantic peace and stability;

5 (2) the NATO allies, at the Summit meeting to
6 be held in Washington, D.C. in April of 1999,
7 should articulate a concrete vision for the Alliance in
8 the 21st century, clearly setting out the continued
9 importance of NATO for the citizens of the Allied
10 nations;

11 (3) the Alliance should adopt a strategic con-
12 cept clearly establishing that defense of shared inter-
13 ests and values are as important for peace and sta-
14 bility as maintaining a vigorous capability to carry
15 out collective defense;

16 (4) the Alliance, while maintaining collective de-
17 fense as its core function, should, as a fundamental
18 Alliance task, identify crisis management operations
19 outside the NATO treaty area, based on case-by-case
20 consensual Alliance decision;

21 (5) the Alliance should make clear commit-
22 ments to remedy shortfalls in areas such as logistics,
23 command, control, communications, intelligence,
24 ground surveillance, readiness, deployability, mobil-
25 ity, sustainability, survivability, armaments coopera-

1 tion, and effective engagement, including early
2 progress in the NATO force structure review;

3 (6) the Alliance must ensure equitable sharing
4 of contributions to the NATO common budgets and
5 overall defense expenditure and capability-building;

6 (7) the Alliance must recognize and act upon
7 the threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of
8 mass destruction and terrorism by intensifying con-
9 sultations among political and military leaders, and
10 deploying comprehensive capabilities to counter these
11 threats to the international community at the earli-
12 est possible date;

13 (8) the Alliance should pace, not pause, the
14 process of NATO enlargement and remain prepared
15 to extend invitations for accession negotiations to
16 any appropriate European democracy meeting the
17 criteria for NATO membership as established in the
18 Alliance's 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement, re-
19 gardless of geographic location and on the same con-
20 ditions applied to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and
21 Poland;

22 (9) while maintaining its unchallenged right to
23 make its own decisions, NATO should seek to
24 strengthen its relations with Russia and Ukraine as

1 essential partners in building long-term peace in the
2 Euro-Atlantic area; and
3 (10) the Alliance should fully support the
4 NAA's activities in enhancing and stabilizing par-
5 liamentary democracy in the nations of Central and
6 Eastern Europe, ensuring ratification of appropriate
7 new NATO members, continuing to deepen coopera-
8 tion within the Alliance, and forging democratic
9 links with the new European democracies.

○